

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01785 040954Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2459

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPON PFOR US KS KN

SUBJ: GLEYSTEN INTERVIEW IN KOREAN PRESS

1. ON MARCH 4, HANGUK ILBO CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, CHO SUN-HWAN, ON MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN AND DR. CHOE CHONG-GI, OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, 40-MINUTE CHOE/GLEYSTEN INTERVIEW COVERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) U.S. IS NOT YET CONSIDERING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA (NK), AND COULD NOT WITHOUT "ADEQUATE AND COMPLETE PRIOR CONSULTATIONS" WITH KOREAN GOVERNMENT (ROKG). (COMMENT: ARTICLE CONTAINS NO REFERENCE TO STANDARD U.S. REQUIREMENT FOR ROK PRESENCE AT MEETINGS WITH NORTH.); (B) MORAL DIPLOMACY OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS DIRECTED, NOT JUST AT SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO AT "ALL NATIONS IN WHICH (PEOPLE) ARE BEING DEPRIVED OF HUMAN RIGHTS," ALTHOUGH USG WILL NOT INTERVENE IN OTHER NATIONS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS; (C) THE PAK TONG-SON CASE CAUSED "FRICTION" IN KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT THE

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YUSIN SYSTEM IS "AN INTERNAL KOREAN PROBLEM" AND KOREA'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND FIRM SECURITY" ARE IN ACCORD WITH U.S. INTERESTS; (D) ASKED HOW FAR "PLANS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES/KOREA" HAVE PROCEEDED, GLEYSTEN REJECTED THE TERM "WITHDRAWAL" IN FAVOR OF TERM "PHASED REDUCTION" AND SAID THERE IS NO SCHEDULE FOR THE REDUCTION OF GROUND FORCES.

2. ORIENT PRESS (TONGYANG) CORRESPONDENT HYON SO-HWAN FILED MORE DETAILED STORY FROM WASHINGTON MARCH 3 IN WHICH HE REPORTED THAT GLEYSTEN CONFIRMED THAT NK HAS SOUGHT NON-POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH CARTER ADMINISTRATION. ARTICLE NOTED REPORTS THAT NK SENT MESSAGES THROUGH PAKISTAN AND ALSO SAID GLEYSTEN TOLD CHOE THAT NORTH KOREANS "EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE THROUGH A THIRD COUNTRY."

3. GOVERNMENT SEOUL SINMUN FOR MARCH 4 CONTAINS BRIEF STORY BASED N HYON'S DISPATCH, BUT PRINTED VERSION CONTAINS NO INFORMATION ON USG RESPONSE TO NK'S INITIATIVE.

4. NO OTHER PAPERS HAVE YET COVERED THIS INTERVIEW, NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY EDITORIAL ATTENTION DIRECTED TO IT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE QUESTIONS.
STERN

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